

~~solo report~~
P
Broyd

R242

R 11786/12BYLUVYBL

Rm-Nun

SHE SAID: Feb 22, REUTER - A BRAZILIAN NUN SAID TODAY SHE WAS BEATEN AND GIVEN ELECTRIC SHOCKS BY TWO SAO PAULO POLICEMEN WHO ARRESTED HER AND ACCUSED HER OF SHOPLIFTING.

SISTER MARLY DE FATIMA LINHOS, 26, TOLD REPORTERS THE TWO OFFICERS THREATENED TO HANG HER FROM THE CEILING BY HER TOES UNLESS SHE CONFESSIONED TO STEALING A 50-DOLLAR SKIRT FROM A MAJOR DEPARTMENT STORE.

SISTER MARLY MADE THE ALLEGATIONS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE CALLED BY THE SAO PAULO ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CASE WAS UNDER INVESTIGATION.

"WE HAVE NO CONCLUSIONS CONCERNING THE ALLEGED TORTURE," HE SAID.

SISTER MARLY, WHO BELONGS TO AN ITALIAN CONVENT, HERE SAID: SAO PAULO, SAID SHE WAS WAITING AT A BUS-STOP LAST THURSDAY WEARING ORDINARY CLOTHES AND WITHOUT IDENTITY DOCUMENTS WHEN THE POLICEMEN PUT HER INTO A CAR.

DURING A DAY-LONG SESSION IN A JAILMENT CELL OF ONE OF THE CITY'S DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS SHE WAS BEATEN ON THE HEAD, GIVEN REPEATED ELECTRIC SHOCKS AND STRUCK WITH THE PALMS OF HER HANDS WITH CLUBS, SHE SAID.

MORE 2122 EP

R243

R 11798/12BYLUVYBL

Rm-Nun 2 Sao Paulo

SHE SAID THE POLICEMEN REFUSED TO BELIEVE SHE WAS A NUN OR TO LET HER TELEPHONE THE CONVENT. SHE RECITED HAIL MARY'S ALOUD DURING THE ELECTRIC SHOCKS BUT FINALLY CONFERRED IN ORDER TO STOP THE TORTURE, SISTER MARLY SAID.

"I JUST COULDN'T TAKE IT ANY LONGER," SHE SAID.

THE OFFICER HEADING THE INVESTIGATION INTO SISTER MARLY'S CHARGES, RUI VIEIRAS PRATES DE FONSECA, SAID THE NUN HAD IDENTIFIED THE THIRTY-THREE POLICEMEN WHO WORKED IN THE POLICE OFFICES.

ONE OF THEM ADMITTED TO ARRESTING HER ON SUSPICION OF SHOPLIFTING BUT SAID HE DID SO IN NAME OF THE SHOP AND AFTER A SECURITY GUARD WHO CALLED HIM THE MR. FONSECA SAID.

FATHER JULIANO RIBEIRO, A U.S. ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST, SAID THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF CASES LIKE SISTER MARLY'S. "THAT'S WHY HE CALLED THE PRESS CONFERENCE, NOT JUST BECAUSE SISTER IS A NUN BUT BECAUSE MOST OF THESE CASES INVOLVED VIOLENCE IN THE FIELD."

ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE BRUTALITY IN BRAZIL HAVE INCREASED SHARPLY IN THE PAST FEW DAYS AND SOME LAWYERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS BLAME THE FORCE FOR CONTRIBUTING TO A CURRENT WAVE OF STREET VIOLENCE IN RIO DE JANEIRO.

MORE 2124 EP

R244

R 11802/12BYLUVYBL

Rm-Nun 3 Sao Paulo

A RECENT CASE WHICH CAUGHT THE HEADLINES IS OF A 29-YEAR-OLD RIO CLERK, FRANCISCO DO ROSARIO BARBOSA, WHO WAS TAKEN OFF A BUS IN THE FASHIONABLE FLAMENGO DISTRICT LAST WEEK DURING A ROUTINE POLICE IDENTITY CHECK.

SEVERAL HOURS LATER HE WAS DUMPED AT A HOSPITAL SO BADLY INJURED THAT HE DIED 15 MINUTES LATER AFTER GRAPING OUT TO DOCTORS: "I WAS BEATEN UP BY THE FLAMENGO POLICE."

THE CASE CAUSED A STIR IN RIO AND IS UNDER INVESTIGATION.

REUTER 2126 EP